

I support XM satellite radio and their efforts to continue to provide the quality programming and diversity that I desire. I also was very pleased that XM began providing instant traffic and weather. This is very beneficial and necessary to me as I am a frequent distance traveler through major metropolitan areas in the Northeast.

Having the ability to program the traffic and weather channels into my XM unit so they are at the ready while I am on the road is very obvious to me that for just the safety feature alone of not having to constantly search for necessary information is well worth the subscription price.

Having been an avid radio listener since my youth (back in the late 50's and early 60's), I find that local radio, wherever I have been, has deteriorated to the point that I exclusively use satellite radio. The diversity of local programming is not as it was in the early years of my listening. Instead of improving over time, radio has pigeonholed itself by offering like types of music on the same channel and refusing to be bold and mix the talk with the sports with the rap with the alternative, etc. This is what broadened my horizons and made me appreciate different styles, genres and cultures. People today are ignorant of things they are not exposed to. Diversity is what allows acceptance of other cultures, lifestyles, etc. People today, in my observations, are so afraid to try something different. This is because they are being force fed by the programmers who are stifled by the powers that be.

Radio has become uninteresting and I, for one, find that much like cable TV, satellite radio is necessary to remind us all of the first amendment, freedom of speech. With the incredible variety offered by satellite radio and cable television and the fact that both are relatively uncensored, this to me is the definition of the first amendment and I feel that is my right as a citizen of this country and a registered taxpaying voter to be allowed to make the decision as to what I watch and hear. If I don't like it, I can exercise my right to cancel my subscription or simply change the channel. With the few options offered by local or public services, I am at the mercy of someone else telling me what is right for me and in my best interests. I prefer to make that decision for myself.